

Fissicorn Tachinidæ.

BY S. W. WILLISTON.

In "Entomologica Americana," iii, 151, I described a peculiar genus of South American Tachinidæ with remarkably developed antennæ under the name *Talarocera*, in reference to the peculiar basket-shape of the organs. Figures of both male and female antennæ I give herewith. Since then two other genera of the same family with these organs abnormally developed have been described, *Dichocera* Williston and *Diglossocera* Wulp; and Brauer has recently* called attention to the fact that Walker long ago† had referred two species with divided third antennal joint to a distinct genus, *Schizotachina*. Four of the species thus made known, *Schizotachina convecta* Walker, *S. exul* Walker, *Dichocera lyrata* Williston and *Diglossocera bifida* Wulp have the third joint somewhat similar in structure in the male. In *S. convecta*, according to the description, the joint is "divided into two parts which are equal in length, slightly curved and converge toward each other at their tips;" in *S. exul*, it is "divided into two parts, which are

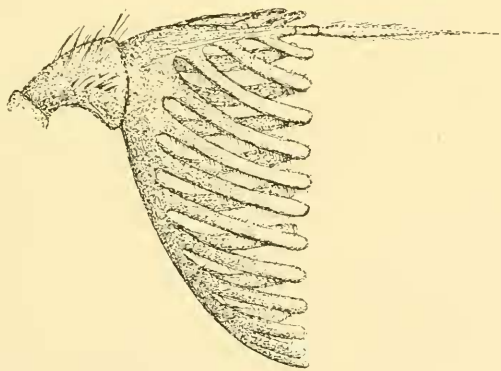


Fig. 1. *Talarocera nigripennis* Wied.; Antenna of male.

linear, rounded at the tips, and of equal length; upper part bent upward;" in *D. lyrata*, (see figure. Entom. News, Jan. 1895, p. 30), the inner division has a foot-like expansion at the tip, touching the curved outer part; in *D. bifida*, the structure is similar to that in

* Sitzungsber. kaiserl. Acad. Wissensch. civ. 600.

† Insecta Saundersia, 264.

S. connecta, and except that the latter is from Java and the former from the United States one might suspect that they belong to the same genus.

In *Talarocera nigripennis* Wied. (*T. smithii*, Will.) the structure, as will be seen from the figure, is very different and exceedingly remarkable. For their description the reader is referred to the original paper. I will only add here that all the twenty-four branches are covered with microscopic hairs or pile. In front view, I have stated, the figure presented by the ends of the rods or branches is an oval one.

Professor Mik ‡ ventures the opinion that this peculiar structure of the male antennæ in *Talarocera* and *Dichocera* may be a monstrosity, as a somewhat similar structure has been observed by Strobl and himself in the female of *Thryptocera exoleta* Meigen, or at least in specimens that differ only in that character from typical forms. That *Dichocera* can be a monstrosity is disproved by the



Fig. 2. *Talarocera nigripennis* Wied.; Antenna of female.

fact that numerous specimens of the species have since been found by Prof. Aldrich in Idaho, and others by Mr. Snow in eastern Wyoming the past summer. The distribution, it is thus seen, is wide.

Nor is it possible to consider the wonderfully elaborate structure in the male of *Talarocera* a monstrosity, though but a single specimen is known yet.

I may add here that *Tachina insolita* Walker belongs in the genus *Melanophrys* Will. and is possibly identical with one or the other of the described species.

‡ Wiener Ent. Zeit., May, 1895.